

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00084 261105Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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Z O 261045Z AUG 75 ZFF-6

FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0065

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 00084

NODIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: SECTO 10109

1. I HAVE EMPHASIZED TO FAHMY THAT THE EGYPTIANS SHOULD START THINKING ABOUT THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF TAKING OVER THE ABU RODEIS OIL FIELDS FROM THE ISRAELIS ONCE THE AGREEMENT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. HE IS FULLY AWARE THAT ANY BREAK IN THE OPERATIONS WILL SUBSTANTIALLY DELAY EGYPT OBTAINING THE DESIRED BENEFITS. I POINTED OUT THAT CERTAIN EQUIPMENT SHOULD REMAIN IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION. HE AGREED AND AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE ISRAELIS, DESPITE THEIR PROMISE TO US, WILL SABOTAGE SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT. HE ONCE AGAIN ASKED THAT YOU STRESS THE POINT TO RABIN THAT ANY SUCH DESTRUCTION OF OIL PRODUCING INFRASTRUCTURE NOT BE ALLOWED. I TOLD HIM I WAS SURE YOU WOULD AGAIN DO SO. I ALSO STRESSED TO HIM THAT WE ARE NOT PROPOSING ANYTHING, NOR ARE WE COMMITTED TO ANYTHING, BUT THE SECRETARY HOPES FAHMY WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE IMPORTANT

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DETAILS WITH HIM AT THE NEXT SESSION.

2. ACCORDING TO FAHMY' CONCEPT, THERE SHOULD BE WHAT HE CALLED SIMULTANEOUS DEPARTURE AND EGYPTIAN/ UNEF ARRIVAL IN ABU RUDEIS AREA. THEREAFTER, UNEF CAN LEAVE AND THE EGYPTIAN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN CONCESSIONAIR TECHNICIANS CAN BE BROUGHT IN TO SEE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. I SUGGESTED THAT, IF HE HAD NOT YET DONE SO, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MINPET HILAL TO ASCERTAIN IF LATTER HAS TECHNICAL PLANS FOR TAKEOVER. FAHMY CLAIMED HILAL READY TO SEND OWN PEOPLE WHENEVER INSTRUCTED TO DO SO, BUT THEN DECISED IT MIGHT NOT BE BAD IDEA TO CALL HILAL AND ALERT HIM TO DRAW UP TECHNICAL PLANS.

3. (NOTE: AMOCO REPS, WHO WILL EVENTUALLY RUN OFFSHORE SINAI FIELDS, HAVE EARLIER TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT BEFORE THEY TAKE OVER OPERATIONS AT ABU RUDEIS, WHENEVER THIS MIGHT TAKE PLACE, THEY WOULD PROPOSE TO SHUT DOWN THE FIELDS TO TAKE PRESSURE READINGS AND DEVELOP CONVERSATION PLAN. END NOTE.

4. RE MESSAGE TO SAUDIS, MARWAN DEPARTED FOR BAHRAIN YESTERDAY MORNING JUST BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL. ITALKED TO FAHMY ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF A MESSAGE TO THE SAUDIS FROM THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINING WHY THE SECRETAR COULD NOT COME ON AUGUST 27 AND THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT INTERRUPTING THE SHUTTLE AT THIS JUNCTURE. FAHMY SAID HE WAS SURE THE SAUDIS WOULD UNDERSTAND. AS WE WERE TALKING, THE PRESIDENT TELEPHONED AND FAHMY PASSED THE THOUGHT TO HIM. HE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL SEND SUCH A MESSAGE TO KING KHALID, POINTING OUT THE CIRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF GETTING THE AGREEMENT FINISHED WITHOUT DELAY AND INDICATING THAT THE SECRETARY HOPES TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AT THE END OF THE PRESENT SHUTTLE ONCE THE AGREEMENT IS COMPLETED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EQUIPMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALEXAN00084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P860035-0091, N750003-0474
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750815/aaaaamxk.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 SECTO 10109
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, ENRG, EG, IS, SA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE SS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006